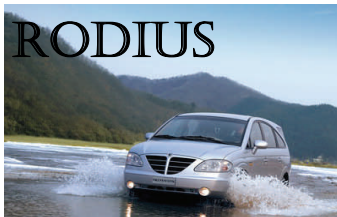




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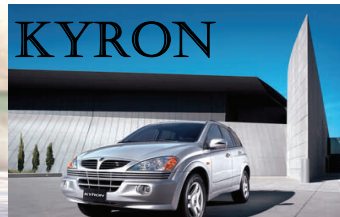
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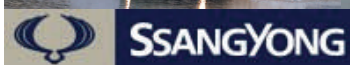
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Rally Goer



Information from the Bedfordshire Centre

Autumn 2007

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Chairman's Chat



Hi,

What a busy time we have had over the last few months, some really big rallies have taken place, lets have a look.

The National, again blighted with the wet stuff but our members turned out in large numbers representing our centre in many Sports and competitions and generally enjoying themselves.

The Charity event, raising money for our chosen charity the RNLI with stalls during the fete keeping us busy Saturday afternoon.

The Birthday Celebration at Cardington, enjoyed by not only our members but by guests and visitors alike. A sub committee was set up taking many months to organise the fantastic decorations, catering and entertainment for us, truly an event to remember for along time to come.

The Juniors, Children's and fishing rallies were all a great success with many people young and old alike joining in the arranged activities.

The Garden Party at Buckingham Palace for those of us lucky enough to attend was a once in a lifetime experience, I even spoke briefly to the Duke.

As you know a new Centre Chairman will be elected at the AGM so this is my last 'Chat', so may I take this opportunity to thank you all for support over the last three years and wish the new Chairman, officers and Committee all the best for the future.

Regards John

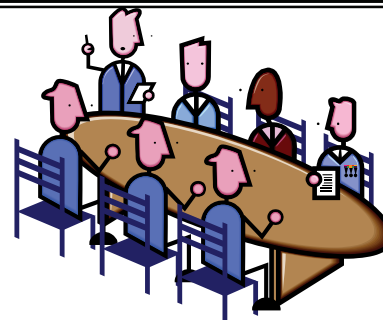
Thanks to those retiring from Committee.....

I think I can speak on behalf of everyone in the Centre in thanking John & Cora for their exceptional contribution to the Centre over the past three years in the Chair. I am sure they will always be on hand with advice when the new Committee need it and will continue to enjoy their rallying and enjoy the fun and friendship that they bring to every rally they run. It has been hard work over three years and we hope you enjoy your short retirement before you are back out running rallies and having fun in the way that you do best.....making people laugh and welcoming people in to the Bedfordshire family.

Thanks also to Mike Zeebroek who has become a familiar face at flag every Sunday even when he is not rallying, I am sure you will agree that his remarkable dedication to his position as saleable goods officer has never faltered in three years. It is so easy to take someone as willing for granted, when party tents arrive and equipment is delivered to rallies it seems an easy Committee role. We all know it isn't so thanks Mike for all your hard work.

Good luck to the new Chairman, Officers and Committee and thank you to all the membership for all the support you give. Together we will fly the flag for the Bedfordshire Centre and keep the friendship and all fun alive for the coming year.

If you wish to include any articles in the next Rally Update then please contact me as soon as possible



Please note that the information contained in this Update is the author's own opinion and not necessarily that of other members of the Bedfordshire Centre.

The Editor reserves the right to edit or decline any items sent in for publication.

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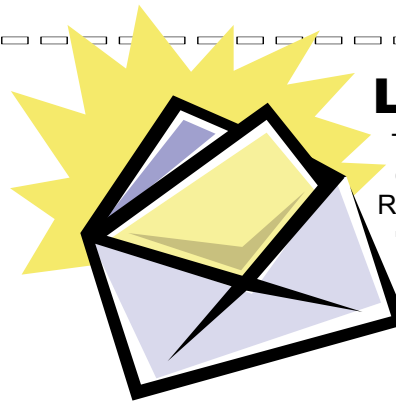


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Finance subject to status, written details on request, pictures for illustration purposes only. These deals supersede any other offers previously advertised by ourselves or the manufacturer, prices vary dependent on mileage, cost of road fund licence is extra, metallic paint available as extra cost option, £55 admin fee on all transactions. £700 extra for automatic gearbox option.

Letters page

This is the place where you get your chance to communicate with your fellow Ralliers.



Thanks for a great 40th Birthday Celebration Rally. It was fantastic

Bill & Jill Thompson

To all our friends in The Caravan Club

Pat & I would like to thank you all for the cards and telephone calls and good will messages during my recent stay in hospital.

I am now convalescing at home and each day walking is becoming easier and after one or two post-op problems things are looking at lot better and I hope to be back caravanning in the near future.

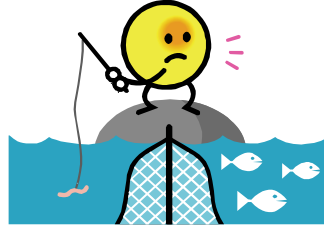
Once again many thanks to you all and hope to see you soon

Regards

Pat & Win Eaton

Beds Centre Fishing Competition

Held at Henlow Bridge Lakes on 4th August 2007. What a fantastic weekend, sunshine, plenty of good fishing and a warm welcome from our rally officers, Mike, Carrie, Hollie, and Jordan assisted by Jim and Barbara. Thanks to Colin, Martin & Tom for organising the fishing matches.



Juniors – Smith Trophy

1st Lisa Richardson
2nd Matthew Gray
3rd Hollie Irvin

Ladies - Mandy Moore Cup

1st Diane Richardson
2nd Janet Blunt
3rd Caroline Gilks

Mens - Styles Trophy

1st Bill Smith
2nd Michael Jackson
3rd Mick Leath

The Mitchelmore Trophy

Winner - Hollie Irvin

Total weight for fishing match a whopping 108lb 9oz

Congratulations to all the winners see you next year at Henlow Bridge.



The Sun flower Appeal

Dear John

Would you please pass on mine and my families thanks to all who gave money to the Sunflower Appeal when we collected on the 40th Birthday Celebration Rally. We managed to raise £83.10 altogether, which St Johns hospice are most grateful for.

Regards Karen Wooton

Centre Charity Fundraising

We had two entrants for the Sponsored Walk at the Chairman's Charity Rally on 9th June 2007. As everyone on the rally field slept John Moules & Mike Zeebroek went on their walk. Between them they raised an exceptional amount in excess of £400.00.

Martin Findlay has organised the bonus ball and the RNLI Scratch card over the past year, thanks to Martin and his band of willing helpers who whiz about on Friday evenings on the rally field. Thanks also to Martin & Bronya who contributed the funds raised at a local boot sale stall to the Centre Charity and to all of those who help collect at Matalan on that cold day last winter. Thanks to Tom and the Juniors who have cooked so many hotdogs over the past two years and to Terry & Bill for all the pancakes and doughnuts.

There has been a tremendous effort to raise funds for the RNLI and as the two years ends this weekend the final donation figure will be announced on Saturday.

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As you may know I am making a collection of Caravan Memorabilia, car badges, plaques, pictures, rally officers tokens, spoons, forks, napkin rings, badges etc. I am particularly interested in Bedfordshire Centre items but I would like to collect any caravan related pieces. Some members have already given me a number of very nice badges for which I am very grateful. I am more than willing to pay for any goods I receive but if payment is not required I will make a donation to our chosen Centre Charity.

Thank you in anticipation

John Moules

Reminders for the Rally Field



Please have the courtesy to stop at the Rally Officers van and wait to be sited on arrival. Please remind any visitors that they should stop and notify the Rally Officers of their arrival.

Rallies open at 4pm unless prior arrangement is made with the Rally Officers to arrive early.

Please remember that the Rally Officers decision is final and that some rally Officers have to work and early opening is not always possible.



Please keep your dog on a lead no longer than 10 feet and ensure that you always clean up after your pet



Graham & Jean Uttley
Dave & Jane Jasper
Rod & Jenny Waite
Terry & Lesley Brinklow
Bob & Rita Kennedy
Stuart & Val Cirket
Pete & Jan Thomas
Geoff & Jean Stewart
Morris & Sandy Mc Dowell

If you are interested in running a rally please see your Rally Secretary who will be only to willing to accommodate your requests and idea. If you do not have a venue choose one from the venues available in the Programme for 2008. There are some experienced rally officers out there who would be more than willing to accept your assistance or be on hand with sound advice if you need it. Give it a go the more rally officers we have the easier it is to provide new ideas and great rallies'

Site Finders Plaques

Awards go to members who find a site suitable for our Centre to rally. I am sure you will agree that the two new sites visited this year have been exceptional.

Colin Richardson

Denver

Gill Leath

Woodside Farm Sandy

If you have any new sites please forward details to your Rally Secretary and you could own a site finders plaque.

Roll of Honour

A massive thank you to all of our 2007 Rally Officers, without you we could not run such a wonderful varied rally programme. On behalf of everyone who has attended a rally this year I would like to express our thanks to you people who give up your time for the benefit of others enjoyment and long may you continue to run rallies

Ron & Sue Morgan
Martin & Bronya Findlay
John & Maureen Gauge
Danny & Ann Pickett
Mike & Karen Zeebroek
Lawrie & Janet Coleman
Win & Pat Eaton
Alan & Lesley Jefferies
John & Cora Moules
Tom & Caroline Gilks
Roland & Jenny Wagstaff
Tom & Maureen Leath
Steve & Karen Waite & Deanna, Jordan & Kyle
Colin & Vicky Pitts & Kenneth & Jess
Terry & Pat Darlow
Ron & Doris Findlay
Alan & Marilyn Measures
Pete & Maggie Wintle
Andy & Jo Gray & Matthew & Emma
Robert & Sally Taylor
Mick & Gill Leath
Jerry & Mo Waite & Aidan
Colin & Des Smith
Bill & Jill Thompson
Fred & Janet Blunt
Mike & Carrie Irvin & Hollie & Jordan
Jim & Barbara Pallett
Lee & Louise Hubbard
Colin & Diane Richardson & Kerry & Lisa

Kids Rally Report

After having my arm twisted on a cold autumn night back in 2006 by our rally sec to take on the kids rally I really regretted saying “Yes we will do that” as I stood in the middle of a windy field on Thursday 12th July. There we were, me, Steve, Martin and two kind helpers desperately holding one of the party tents down as we tried to erect it on that typical summers evening (high winds and rain). By 9pm the light was fading and in two hours we had just about managed to put one of the two party tents up, but never mind there was always tomorrow. So up early, signs out, field pegged and by lunch time second party tent up as our first Ralliers arrived.

In the afternoon we started thinking about the onslaught of children and how to keep them amused at an early stage, bring on the bouncy castle. Out come the bouncy castle and the realisation, it had been two years since it last saw the light of day, and it smelt like it. Steve had a great idea, “we can clean it”. Out comes the shampoo, brush, water and for the next two hours Steve tried to get rid of the bubble mass he created inside the castle. But by 4pm it was ready for the children, as they arrived after their hard day at school. Just to ensure they were kept busy a treasure hunt was held on Friday evening and all our entrants were provided with sweets for entering.

Onto Saturday morning and we started our day with the fun run. All lined up by the rally officer’s awning. Our Ralliers young and old were ready for the starters pistol to go off so they could start their race, forgot the pistol so shouted go instead. This was always going to be a challenging course for the runners with parts on concrete, parts on not much more than a dirt track and a vast area of grass to cover. Some of our younger runners started to struggle part of the way round and were assisted by our more mature runners, shoulder carrying being the order of the day. Our winner was a few seconds ahead of the field but second and third was a very close finish. I was pleased to see the whole field did finish the race and all our runners were provided with a milk lolly to help cool down after the huge race they had run.

A short break, then onto our crafts for the day. With magic as a theme witches and wizards outfits were called for. All our youngsters were provided with materials to make the most extravagant costumes known to man, it's amazing what you can do with a dustbin bag, crate paper, coloured paper, a bit of glue and sellotape. An hour later the party tent was like a Hogwarts ball with all our young rallyers dressed for the occasion. Another short break for lunch and our magician arrived to entertain us for the afternoon. Like all good kids party's there was magic, music and mayhem. A few games were played with loads of party food and cake to ensure all our children had a great time. In the middle of the party our visiting Magician chose the best wizard and witch costume and prizes were given.

A well earned rest for an hour, "sleep, I need sleep!" one of the rally officers was heard to say. Then an hour of bouncy fun for all, on the centres bouncy castle, the kids could bounce, as this was about the fourth or fifth time it had been on that day. At 7pm the kids took over the party tents for a disco and party games. Pass the parcel, statues and the ever so popular pin the car on the caravan. Prizes galore and loads of fun, but the adults had to be catered for too so at 8.30pm we let the grown ups back in with some light background music being played by one of our junior committee and our centre chairman.

Then onto Sunday morning and the children's sports day. What a great morning of fun and races. We were able to split our youngsters into four groups, under 3's, 4 and 5's, 6, 7 & 8's then the 9's and over s the oldest child participating was 12. Each group had their own set of races with only the distance changing for the groups.

First Race – Straight running race

Second Race – Egg & Spoon Race (or in the Beds Centre Golf Ball and spoon)

Third Race – Sack Race

Fourth Race – Three legged race with an adult

Fifth Race – Obstacle Race which involved the putting on of a Beds Centre T-Shirt followed by going through the hoop, kicking a ball and for the older ones egg & spoon again and the really old ones getting in sacks and kicking a ball.

Buckingham Palace Royal Garden Party



It was truly a very memorable weekend for all of us at Cardington. Tom and I with our co-rally officers Sandy and Morris McDowell worked really hard to site all our guests for the weekend at Home Farm. Many who had never visited a site without hard standing and electric were put at ease by the warm welcome they received from Sandy and Cora. As the rain fell in true British style Tom towed them onto their pitch as Morris sited every caravan and motor home. Luckily as usual our Chairman was in the middle of it all sleeves rolled up and mucking in with the rest of us to site everyone, many of our guests thought he was paid staff!

Roland and Jenny Wagstaff, Colin and Vicky Pitts, Ron and Sue Morgan, Tom and myself along with our Chairman, John and Cora Moules were amongst the lucky few who were privileged to go to the Royal Garden Party. We will all confirm that it was a once in a lifetime experience and we had a fantastic day despite the rain.

We have had so many letters of thanks and lots of our visitors have said they will try rallying now they realise they can survive without the little blue plug, so it was a really positive experience.

Thanks to Morris & Sandy who took a portrait photo of each couple as we boarded our coaches. Not only did they look after the site whilst we were gone they raised £125.00 for the R.N.L.I our Centre charity taking the photos which I think is a fantastic contribution.



Bedfordshire 40th Birthday Celebration Rally

What a weekend and so many people to thank for all their hard work. John said it all in his warm welcome at the Rally, we do know how to party and we hope that you all enjoyed the weekend and will have happy memories for years to come. We have received so many cards and letters thanking us we thought you may like to read a couple....

Thank you for a great weekend. Please pass on our thanks to your hardworking Committee and members for a memorable weekend. Diane and I received such a friendly welcome and thoroughly enjoyed the weekend with you.

Regards

Rodney Lambert
NHCR Hon. Secretary



Liz and I had a wonderful weekend at Cardington and would like to express our most grateful thanks to you, your officers and Committee for allowing us to join your outstanding Celebration Rally.

Please pass on our most grateful thanks to your team of rally marshals for their considerable efforts in organising a truly wonderful rally. You really provided a marvellous weekend, I am sure that all who took part will remember their experience for a very long time.

Yours sincerely
Grenville Chamberlain
Vice Chairman



I hope every one who attended had a great time and I look forward to entertaining the centres children a next year's children's rally. Keep your eyes peeled on the web site as I have now sent some pics to our webmaster.

Jerry Waite
Beds Centre Sports Officer



Remember this is your RallyGoer
Please send in your articles, news, Rally Updates by either email or just plain old 'pigeon post'.

Glenn Miller Festival At Twinwood Airfield 2007

We arrived at Twinwood, Clapham, Bedford on Thursday lunchtime to set-up camp and get ready for the Bedfordshire Centre CC event.

This was our first visit to Twinwood and we didn't really know what to expect. We are big fans of Glenn Miller and swing bands in general so we knew that we would enjoy the music.

Friday morning, we woke to a beautiful day such a contrast to the days proceeding the event and the vans started to arrive thick and fast, we had people arrive from Wales, Bristol, the Midlands and of course some more local, 56 vans on site by Friday evening, all set up and raring to go.

Saturday morning brought us another lovely day, very hot. After a hearty breakfast we made our way to the arena where a full day's line-up awaited us. The first thing we noticed was the amount of people in uniforms of the 1940's, Army, Navy, RAF, some American personnel and even a couple of German officers, all very authentic, people had taken great care and pride over their uniforms, Also ladies in the fashions of the era, lovely dresses and hats and fur stoles etc. Lots of army vehicles and motor bikes, and many bicycles and cars of that time as well and also some American cars all wonderfully preserved and polished to within an inch of their lives. The surrounding woodland had been set out with camps of different regiments in the conditions in which they would have had to endure, certainly made you think. Also a billet was reconstructed with the dormitory set out ready for inspection and also an NFS station with some of the vehicles of the time and personnel.

Of course the music was the main attraction and the first up for the day was the acclaimed Midland All Stars Band playing lots of Glenn Miller favourites and many more besides. Then it went on to the Sinatra era with Jim Mac Allister singing many of Sinatra's best hits. During this show a Fly Pass by an RAF Spitfire was enjoyed, showing fantastic flying skills. The final show for the evening was Richard Atkins, The RCA Band, The Heartbreak Horns and the Divine Inspiration singers performing all the Vegas Years classics. For all the Glenn Miller purists, the Mainland Big Band played at the alternative venue, The Control Tower Stage, something for everybody.

Sunday morning and still beautiful. After fortifying ourselves with a good full English breakfast we were all set for another full day of entertainment. The Salvation Army band started the day off with a Sunday Service, very well attended and all sang the hymns with great gusto, after which the days music began. Terry Elliott started off the proceedings with some great dance music and he was followed by the amazing Sticky Wicket and his band, this man is an absolute wiz on the drums and gave an amazing drum solo. Before anyone could draw breath the incredible Jive Aces were there to get you jiving till you dropped with music from the 40's through to the 50's. The RAF gave another fly pass in the Spitfire showing incredible flying skills.

To finish this fantastic day none other than the host of the show, Mr John Miller and his amazing orchestra, no other word but 'fabulous'. For those who still had any stamina left the Hanger dance at the Control Tower was still in full swing. We unfortunately by then were 'bushed' and had to go back to base.

Bank Holiday Monday, we are still blessed by the weather and we are set for yet another day's full programme. To start a troupe of actors called Radio Days bought back all the nostalgic memories and lots of comedy. Next the Kremlinaries with an unusual and amazing rendition of Swing Dance music. This was followed by a 1940's Lindyhop and Jive dance display, then the Koltans gave even more Swing and Jump Jive music of the 40's and 50's and again the RAF gave another amazing flying display in the Spitfire. The last to play was Chris Smith and the String of Pearls Orchestra, with some great Glenn Miller classics and also some numbers for a general traditional sing along.

I can only sum up the whole weekend as being a breath-taking non stop nostalgic extravaganza of music, fashion and military re-enactment, all together a most enjoyable weekend, so much so we have booked for next year.



A massive thank you to Sandy & Morris McDowell who were our co-rally officers for The Glenn Miller Event. Their hard work and commitment to ensuring all our visitors enjoyed a good weekend was really appreciated by us and everyone who attended the Event. Thanks for the write up Sandy there seems no end to your talent ! ***Tam & Caz***